



NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture
NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
HEARTLAND REGION -- MISSOURI FIELD OFFICE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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USDA SURVEYING BEE AND HONEY OPERATIONS

Columbia, MO – Starting in mid-December, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) will measure Bee colony inventories and honey production during a nationwide survey.

"Interest in bee and honey production continues to grow, all around the country," said Missouri State Statistician Bob Garino. "The Bee and Honey Survey gives producers the opportunity to report the latest information on conditions and trends in the industry."

Beginning in the middle of December, Missouri operators will be asked to provide information about their bee colonies, stocks of honey on hand, and production and prices received for honey in 2014. In Missouri, NASS will contact more than 200 operations to request their responses to the survey.

"Accurate data on bee inventory and honey production are critical decision-making tools for USDA and the industry to be more responsive to domestic and international markets and consumer needs," Garino said. "The information can also help create public appreciation for the many benefits of U.S. bees and their products," he added.

To make it as easy as possible for producers to participate in the survey, NASS offers the option of responding via the Internet, telephone, mail, or a personal interview with a local NASS representative.

Garino noted that, as is the case with all NASS surveys, information provided by respondents is confidential by law. "NASS safeguards the privacy of all responses and publishes only state- and national-level data, ensuring that no individual producer or operation can be identified," he said.

NASS will publish the survey results March 20, 2015, in the *Honey* report. This and all NASS reports are available online at www.nass.usda.gov. For more information, call the NASS Heartland Regional Field Office at (800) 551-1014.

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